

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the original paper copy of the Sequence Listing with the substitute paper copy of the Sequence Listing filed herewith.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 1, as follows:

The N-terminal Amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:9) of the fusion protein HCV- β -galactosidase is shown underneath the DNA sequence. The HCV sequence is depicted in italics. The start of the β -Gal gene (including 6 nucleotides of the Kozak sequence in front of the ATG codon) is underlined.